

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, EI, UK

SUBJECT: MEDIA STORIES ON POSSIBLE USG NORTHERN IRELAND
INITIATIVE

1. CONFIRMING TELECONS WITH ADDRESSEE POSTS OF JULY 25,
FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT PLANS TO FOLLOW
IF ASKED ABOUT MEDIA STORIES ON POSSIBLE USG INITIATIVE
ON NORTHERN IRELAND. SUBJECT WAS NOT RPT NOT RAISED IN
JULY 25 NOON PRESS BRIEFING AT THE DEPARTMENT.

2. QUOTE:

Q: A LONDON SUNDAY TIMES ARTICLE OF JULY 24, BY CHRIS RYDER,
SAYS THE US WILL PROMISE ECONOMIC HELP TO BOTH THE
PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC COMMUNITIES OF NORTHERN IRELAND.
DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT?

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A: YOU MAY RECALL THAT SECRETARY VANCE MET SEVERAL WEEKS
AGO (JUNE 9) WITH SENATORS KENNEDY AND MOYNIHAN AND
SPEAKER O'NEILL TO DISCUSS THE NORTHERN IRELAND SITUATION.
ALL AGREED THAT A SOLUTION THERE MUST COME FROM THE PARTIES
DIRECTLY CONCERNED, BUT THAT THE US SHOULD CONSIDER WHETHER
WE MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN SOME WAY. THE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN

LOOKING INTO THIS. NO DEFINITE CONCLUSIONS HAVE BEEN REACHED. WHEN THEY ARE, WE WILL FORWARD THEM TO THE NSC

FOR CONSIDERATION. US POLICY HAS LONG BEEN AND REMAINS ONE OF NON-INVOLVEMENT IN THIS ISSUE, BUT THIS IS COMBINED WITH MORAL SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF ALL EFFORTS TO END VIOLENCE AND ESTABLISH A PEACEFUL AND JUST SOCIETY IN THAT AREA.

Q: IS ECONOMIC HELP BEING CONSIDERED? THE RYDER ARTICLE SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT STIMULATING US INVESTMENT.

A: I DON'T WANT TO GO INTO DETAILS. AS I SAID, NO CONCLUSIONS HAVE BEEN REACHED.

Q: HAVE YOU CONSULTED THE BRITISH AND IRISH GOVERNMENTS?

A: WE ARE CONTINUALLY IN TOUCH WITH BOTH GOVERNMENTS, SO NATURALLY WE TOLD THEM ABOUT THE MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND THE CONGRESSIONAL FIGURES. SINCE THE NORTHERN IRELAND ISSUE IS OF DIRECT CONCERN TO BOTH, WE WILL OF COURSE CONSULT WITH THEM WHEN WE REACH CONCLUSIONS ON WHETHER OR HOW WE MIGHT BE OF ASSISTANCE.

Q: THE ARTICLE SAYS THE USG HAS MADE SOUNDINGS WITH NORTHERN IRELAND POLITICAL LEADERS ABOUT THIS.
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A: THAT IS NOT SO.

Q: WHAT ABOUT A VISIT PLANNED BY BRITISH NORTHERN IRELAND MINISTER CONCANNON TO SEEK US INVESTMENT?

A: I DO NOT KNOW OF ANY PLANNED VISIT BY THE MINISTER.

Q: THE ARTICLE STATES THE PRESIDENT WILL MAKE A SPEECH?

A: IT IS PREMATURE TO DISCUSS WHAT THE US WILL DO OR NOT DO -- CONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICY OF NON-INVOLVEMENT UNTIL WE HAVE FINISHED LOOKING INTO HOW WE MIGHT BE HELPFUL.
UNQUOTE. VANCE

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